IFFCO plants in Maharashtra

†1126. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the current financial status of various plants/factories of IFFCO situated in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of employees appointed on various posts in each of the plants during the last three years;

(c) the number of employees retired during the same period; and

(d) the details with regard to promotions, service expansion and money spent on gifts during the last three years till 31st October, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (d) Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) do not have any plant/factory situated in the State of Maharashtra and therefore the question does not arise.

Import cost of urea

†1127. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep rise in import cost of urea during the last three years;

(b) if so, the price and quantum of import of urea during the last three years;

(c) percentage of import price of urea during the said period; and

(d) steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (c) The average C & F price of imported urea, quantum of imports from 2000-01 onwards

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and percentage of increase or decrease of import price of urea are given below:—

Year	Average C & F Price US $/PMT	Imports (LMT)	Percentage increase or decrease in price of imported urea over previous year
2000-01	131.18	—	—
2001-02	106.50	2.20	(-) 18.81
2002-03	132.22	—	24.15
2003-04 (upto Nov.)	171.02	—	29.35

(d) The price variation in the international market has no impact, as India has hardly imported urea in the recent past on Government account because the country has achieved near self-sufficiency in production capacity of urea. However, the selling price/maximum retail price (MRP) of urea is fixed/notified by the Government, which is applicable uniformly all over the country to the farmers.

Electricity from bio-waste

1128. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of press reports that bio-waste has been used to generate electricity in Kovalam, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would help NGOs and other organisations who are ahead in using bio-waste to generate electricity?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As per the information given by Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), a project on "Zero Waste Kovalam" to keep Kovalam beach clean and tidy is being implemented by a Non-Governmental Organization called, "Thanal" with the financial assistance from the Tourism Department of the Government of Kerala. Biogas plant based on the organic waste generated from the hotels and the tourist centres for producing electricity is a part of this project.

(c) Government through the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources has launched a national programme on energy recovery from